

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB A' 1. A method of providing access to a resource on a network, comprising:

installing instructions on the network, the instructions
5 defining a fixed level of access to the resource; and
modifying the instructions to change the level of access to the resource.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the instructions comprise a filter and are installed on a device on the network, the filter being defined by matching criteria to identify a network address and an action that is performed with respect to the network address.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the instructions define the level of access to the resource based on an address of a node on the network.

20 4. The method of claim 3, wherein modifying the instructions comprises changing the address upon which the instructions base the level of access to the resource.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein modifying the instructions comprises substituting a range of addresses for the address upon which the instructions base the level of access to the resource.

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6. The method of claim 5, further comprising installing a negative filter within the range of addresses in order to block an address within the range from accessing the resource.

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7. The method of claim 1, wherein the instructions are installed in a device on the network, and the resource comprises bandwidth available from the device.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein modifying the instructions comprises:

changing the amount of bandwidth available on the device to one or more network nodes.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the instructions define the level of access to the resource based on a priority level of data packets being transmitted through the network.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the instructions comprises:

changing the amount of data packets having a particular priority level that can be transmitted through the network.

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11. The method of claim 9, wherein the priority level of the data packets is defined by instructions in headers of the data packets.

12. The method of claim 2, wherein there are a limited number of filters that can be installed on the network and the filter is modified to increase a number of users with access through the filter.

13. The method of claim 2, further comprising installing a negative filter on the device in order to identify an address that is transmitting data.

14. A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium for providing access to a resource on a network, the computer program comprising executable code that causes a computer to:

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install instructions on the network, the instructions defining a fixed level of access to the resource; and

modify the instructions to change the level of access to the resource.

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15. The computer program of claim 14, wherein the instructions comprise a filter and are installed on a device on the network, the filter being defined by matching criteria to identify a network address and an action that is performed with respect to the network address.

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16. The computer program of claim 14, wherein the instructions define the level of access to the resource based on an address of a node on the network.

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17. The computer program of claim 16, wherein modifying the instructions comprises changing the address upon which the instructions base the level of access to the resource.

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18. The computer program of claim 17, wherein modifying the instructions comprises substituting a range of addresses for the address upon which the instructions base the level of access to the resource.

19. The computer program of claim 17, further comprising computer code to install a negative filter within the range of addresses in order to block an address within the range from
5 accessing the resource.

20. The computer program of claim 14, wherein the instructions are installed in a device on the network, and the resource comprises bandwidth available from the device.

21. The computer program of claim 20, wherein modifying the instructions comprises:

changing the amount of bandwidth available on the device to one or more network nodes.

22. The computer program of claim 14, wherein the instructions define the level of access to the resource based on a priority level of data packets being transmitted through the network.

23. The computer program of claim 14, wherein modifying the instructions comprises:

changing the amount of data packets having a particular priority level that can be transmitted through the network.

24. The computer program of claim 22, wherein the
5 priority level of the data packets is defined by instructions in headers of the data packets.

25. The computer program of claim 15, wherein there are
10 a limited number of filters that can be installed on the network and the filter is modified to increase a number of users with access through the filter.

26. The computer program of claim 15, further comprising
15 computer code to install a negative filter on the device in order to identify an address that is transmitting data.

27. An apparatus for providing access to a resource on a
network, comprising:

a memory which stores executable code; and

20 a processor which executes the code to:

install instructions on the network, the
instructions defining a fixed level of access to the
resource; and

modify the instructions to change the level of
access to the resource.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the instructions
5 comprise a filter and are installed on a device on the
network, the filter being defined by matching criteria to
identify a network address and an action that is performed
with respect to the network address.

29. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the instructions
10 define the level of access to the resource based on an address
of a node on the network.

30. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein modifying the
15 instructions comprises changing the address upon which the
instructions base the level of access to the resource.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein modifying the
instructions comprises substituting a range of addresses for
20 the address upon which the instructions base the level of
access to the resource.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the processor executes code to install a negative filter within the range of addresses in order to block an address within the range from accessing the resource.

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33. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the instructions are installed in a device on the network, and the resource comprises bandwidth available from the device.

34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein modifying the instructions comprises:

changing the amount of bandwidth available on the device to one or more network nodes.

35. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the instructions define the level of access to the resource based on a priority level of data packets being transmitted through the network.

36. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein modifying the instructions comprises:

changing the amount of data packets having a particular priority level that can be transmitted through the network.

37. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the priority level of the data packets is defined by instructions in headers of the data packets.

5 38. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein there are a limited number of filters that can be installed on the network and the filter is modified to increase a number of users with access through the filter.

10 39. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the processor executes code to install a negative filter on the device in order to identify an address that is transmitting data.

15 40. An apparatus for providing access to a resource on a network, comprising:

means for installing instructions on the network, the instructions defining a fixed level of access to the resource; and

20 means for modifying the instructions to change the level of access to the resource.

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